

# Jacob Antles

**#278223 | March 16, 2021**

## Testimony to **Portland City Council** on the **Shelter to Housing Continuum Project, Recommended Draft**

Dear City Council, I raise my fist high in strong support of the proposed Shelter to Housing Continuum (S2HC) and urge the adoption of amendments proposed by Portland: Neighbors Welcome. These changes are, in summary: extend the Housing State of Emergency, allow sanctioned Outdoor Shelters in approved sites in Open Space zones and in the right-of-way (ROW), and dropping the requirement for vehicles to have costly sewer connections. Regarding the requirement for sewer connections, this rule would make many existing dwellings illegal or prohibitively expensive (\$10-20k per connection). Adopt alternative best-practice sanitation solutions, such as using an alternative facility on-site, establishing dumping sites, a mobile street team, or a pumping service such as those used for portable toilets, as Eugene does. I have personally experienced and been witness to the opportunity of property owners opening their land to a mobile dwelling. It makes good financial sense for everyone involved and can be a stable bridge from one situation to another. Living in a mobile dwelling in a backyard allowed me, after becoming unemployed, to take time to heal and pivot to an exciting new job, all while paying only \$250 in land rent. That money helped the land-owning family pay their mortgage while living off a single income. And we all benefited from emotional support for one another. Our parks, open spaces, and ROWs are collectively Portland's backyard. There are dozens, even hundreds of little pockets of space in these zones around our city that could provide a good, stable location for a sanctioned community of unhoused Portlanders while offering zero compromises to the quality of housed-Portlander's experience of their parks. Allow city council discretion to designate these areas going forward and avoid a blanket ban on the concept. I daresay we may find that the Quality of our city and its parks and residents will be much better for it. Thank you for passing this strengthened version of an already visionary approach to how to house our community in a more safe and supportive way. Jake

Testimony is presented without formatting.